

Message Text

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LIMDIS - MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: DANISH OPENING STATEMENT

BEGIN SUMMARY: AD HOC GROUP ON OCTOBER 26 APPROVED NEW TEXT
OF DANISH OPENING STATEMENT INCORPORATING REFERENCE TO US-USSR
TAKING FIRST STEPS. TEXT FOLLOWS: END SUMMARY. BEGIN TEXT:

DANISH OPENING STATEMENT

MR. CHAIRMAN,

IT IS WITH SATISFACTION AND EXPECTATION THAT DENMARK
TO-DAY TAKES HER SEAT AT THE NEGOTIATIONS ON MUTUAL REDUCTION
OF FORCES AND ARMAMENTS AND ASSOCIATED MEASURES IN CENTRAL
EUROPE.

AT THE OUTSET OF THE NEGOTIATIONS I SHOULD LIKE ON BEHALF
OF MY GOVERNMENT TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO THE AUSTRIAN
GOVERNMENT FOR ITS HOSPITALITY AND FOR ITS EFFICIENT HELP IN
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THE ORGANIZATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MAJOR AIM OF DANISH FOREIGN POLICY TO EXPLORE ALL POSSIBILITIES FOR CREATING A LASTING DETENT IN EUROPE AND WE HAVE CONSEQUENTLY FROM THE OUTSET SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF SEEKING MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

THE OPENING OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD IN THE OPINION OF THE DANISH GOVERNMENT ALREADY CONSTITUTE AN IMPORTANT STEP ON THE ROAD TOWARDS DETENTE IN EUROPE.

THE GOAL OF THE TALKS WHICH WE ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN IS TO ACHIEVE A MORE STABLE MILITARY BALANCE AT LOWER LEVELS OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE WHILE MAINTAINING UNDIMINISHED SECURITY FOR ALL PARTIES. THIS MEANS THAT WE SHOULD SEEK TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF MILITARY FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE, TO AFFECT THEIR CHARACTER BY REDUCING THEIR DESTABILIZING ELEMENTS IN CONSISTENCE WITH DEFENSIVE NEEDS AND PURPOSES AND TO DEAL WITH THEIR ACTIVITIES IN A MANNER WHICH MINIMIZES THE RISK OF MISCALCULATION OR SURPRISE. IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS WHILE MAINTAINING UNDIMINISHED SECURITY AN AGREEMENT MUST IN OUR OPINION TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE EXISTENT DISPARITIES IN MANPOWER, EQUIPMENT AND GEOGRAPHY. IF WE SUCCEED IN THESE ENDEAVOURS WE SHALL HAVE TAKEN A MAJOR STEP TO BUILD UP CONFIDENCE BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE TWO ALLIANCES THEREBY FURTHERING STABILITY AND DETENTE IN EUROPE.

DENMARK IS NOT PART OF CENTRAL EUROPE AND CONSEQUENTLY WILL NOT BE DIRECTLY TOUCHED BY THE REDUCTION ARRANGEMENT FOR CENTRAL EUROPE WHICH WE HOPE TO SEE EMANATING FROM THESE TALKS. BUT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE EUROPEAN SECURITY INDIVISIBLE AND ARRANGEMENTS WHICH TOUCH UPON FORCES AND TERRITORY IN CENTRAL EUROPE WILL NECESSARILY HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE OVERALL SECURITY SITUATION IN EUROPE AND THEREBY ALSO ON DENMARK'S SECURITY.

THE DANISH GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE AGREEMENT REACHED AT THE PREPARATORY TALKS IN VIENNA THAT ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WE ARE HERE TO CONSIDER BE LIMITED TO CENTRAL EUROPE. WE DO SO BECAUSE WE REALISE THAT IN CENTRAL EUROPE THE LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF MILITARY FORCES ON BOTH SIDES IS FACING EACH OTHER. MOREOVER, THE COMPLEXITY OF THE SUBJECT MATTER - AND NOT LEAST THE FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT MILITARY-GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION IN OTHER PARTS OF EUROPE - PROMPTS US TO LIMIT OUR DISCUSSIONS TO CENTRAL EUROPE.

IN OUR VIEW IT IS AT THE SAME TIME OBVIOUS THAT THE TWO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GREAT POWERS PARTICIPATING IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND HAVING FORCES ON CENTRAL EUROPEAN SOIL MUST FEEL A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR A SUCCESSFUL START OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

AS MENTIONED MY GOVERNMENT SEES A FORCE REDUCTION ARRANGEMENT IN CENTRAL EUROPE AS A MEANS TO ENHANCE STABILITY AND MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AMONG EAST AND WEST IN EUROPE. CONSEQUENTLY, WE ATTACH THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO THE AGREEMENT - WHICH FOUND EXPRESSION IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF JUNE 28, 1973 - TO DISCUSS

NOT ONLY MUTUAL REDUCTION OF FORCES AND ARMAMENTS BUT ALSO ASSOCIATED MEASURES WHICH IN OUR OPINION COMPRISE STABILISING MEASURES, NON-CIRCUMVENTION MEASURES AND VERIFICATION MEASURES. AN AGREEMENT MUST INCLUDE SUCH MEASURES IF IT IS TO SERVE ITS PURPOSE OF INHANCING STABILITY AND MUTUAL CONFIDENCE. IN THIS CONNECTION THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WISHES TO STRESS THAT A FORCE REDUCTION ARRANGEMENT IN CENTRAL EUROPE MUST UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES LEAD TO ADDED MILITARY TENSION OR UNBALANCE IN OTHER PARTS OF EUROPE. THIS WOULD RUN COUNTER TO THE AGREED FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY FOR ALL PARTIES.

THE DANISH GOVERNMENT IS WELL AWARE THAT WE MAY HAVE A DIFFICULT TASK AHEAD OF US BECAUSE OF THE VERY COMPLEX SUBJECT MATTER AND THE VITAL INTERESTS INVOLVED FOR ALL PARTIES. BUT LIKE ALL GOVERNMENTS HERE REPRESENTED MY GOVERNMENT HOLDS HIGH EXPECTATIONS AS TO A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS, THEREFORE, OUR SINCERE HOPE THAT FROM THE OUTSET A POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH MAY PREVAIL IN THESE TALKS IN ORDER THAT PRACTICAL RESULTS MAY BE REACHED AND THE EXPECTATIONS BE MET.

THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.
END TEXT. MOWINCKEL

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